

## BLUEJACK OAK

### *Quercus cinerea* Michx.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Cinnamon oak, Sand jack, Shin oak, Turkey oak, Upland willow oak.

FORM: Usually 15-20 feet high, trunk 5-6 inches in diameter, stout branches forming a narrow irregular head; on low moist soil may reach height of 60-75 feet, trunk diameter 18-20 inches.

BARK: 3/4-1 1/2 inches thick, divided into thick, nearly square plates, 1-2 inches long, covered by small dark brown or nearly black scales, slightly tinged with red.

TWIGS: At first fulvous or hoary tomentum, soon glabrous or puberulous, dark brown, sometimes tinged with red, later darker.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, oblong-lanceolate to oblong-obovate, narrowed or cuneate, or sometimes rounded at base, acute or rounded and apiculate at apex, with slightly thickened undulate margins; occasionally 3-lobed at apex on vigorous sterile branches; mature leaves blue-green, lustrous above, pale tomentose below, 2-5 inches long, 1/2- 1 1/2 inches wide.

FLOWERS: Monoecious; staminate in hoary tomentose aments 2-3 inches long, calyx bright red, becoming yellow as it opens; pistillate on short tomentose peduncles, stigmas dark red.

FRUIT: Ripens the second year, occasionally on branches 3-4 years old; nut ovate, rounded at both ends or subglobose, about 1/2 inch long, light brown, often striate, hoary pubescent at apex; cup saucer-shaped, embraces only the bottom of the nut or is cup-shaped and encloses half of the nut.

WINTER BUDS: Ovoid, acute, with numerous scales ciliate on their margins, often 1/4 inch long on vigorous branches.

WOOD: Hard, close-grained, strong, light brown tinged with red, sapwood darker colored,

USES: Firewood.

HABITAT: Sandy barrens, dry upland ridges, rich moist soil of pine-covered flats.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaves pale blue-green, hoary tomentose below; nut rounded at both ends, hoary-pubescent at apex; bark divided into thick, nearly square plates.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from Etowah, Walker, Chilton, Tuscaloosa, Macon, Autauga, Montgomery, Dallas, Choctaw, and Monroe Counties. Common in Washington, Mobile, Escambia, Covington, Geneva, and Houston Counties.

#### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. A flowering branch  | 6. A leaf             |
| 2. A staminate flower  | 7. A leaf             |
| 3. A pistillate flower | a. A Leaf             |
| 4. A fruiting branch   | 9. A winter branchlet |
| 5. A nut               |                       |



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